



GASHLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING
MAY 9, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

<u>Ruling Elders Present:</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Crossett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Brink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Blakley
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Langford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Clapham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethan Funk
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Wiersma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Williams	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Johnson

Excused: Dave Wiersma, Mark Johnson

Teaching Elders Present: Pastor Michael Morefield

- I. **Opening prayer:** Pastor Morefield opened the meeting with prayer, after quorum was confirmed, at 6:35 p.m.
- II. **Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as written and added items #7 and #8 under New Business.
- III. **Review/Approval of Previous Session Meeting Minutes:**
April 11 Session Meeting Minutes – Approved as written,
- IV. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Morefield
 - A. Receipt of \$33K gift (anonymous). Finance team has recommended using \$12K for tech/wi-fi upgrades (plus the \$5K rec'd previously for the same), with the remainder of the \$33K going into the General Fund. Approved: Apply \$12K for tech/wi-fi upgrades.
 - B. Amos house. A disturbance involving the occupants occurred recently. A neighbor has complained. ATP is evicting the current tenant. Caleb Mason will be notified to advise ATP we putting their use of the house on hold, due to Caleb's upcoming departure and GEPC determining who at GEPC manage that program with ATP.
 - C. Executive session. At 7:02 p.m. Mike Brink moved to enter executive session. Tom Crossett seconded. Approved. At 7:26 p.m. Ethan Funk moved to exit executive session. Mark Blakley seconded. Approved.
 - D. Personal concern. Pastor Morefield shared a personal concern. Session paused and entered into a time of prayer for Pastor Morefield.
 - E. Joint deacon/session meeting – schedule for June 13. Session will be the host, deacons will provide clean up. Kathy Welch will order food.
- V. **Calendar Items:**
 - A. Joint session/deacons meeting – June. Noted above.



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VI. Business Reports and Discussion:

A. Old Business:

1. Presbytery meeting report: Pastor Morefield and Ethan Funk attended, and gave a brief update on the proceedings. GEPC is hosting the fall Presbytery meeting.
2. GEPC position on Memorial Church application to our presbytery. GEPC is following Presbytery's direction, while Presbytery examines the situation and completes a study.
3. Tithe.ly breach – further due diligence. Phil Josephson/Finance team is working with Miller Management to look for possible issues over the last two years. A policy needs to be developed and added to the Employee Handbook. Coordinating and HR will work on this.

B. New Business

1. Assistant Pastor search update: Ethan Funk reported the position has been posted in 13 locations/electronic boards. One application has been received. Procedure development is underway. This will be a session hire, where session holds the interviews and extends the offer.
2. Director of Worship – open position. No report. Will be a session hire. Ethan Funk moved to make this a full-time position. Mike Brink seconded. Motion passed.
3. Director of Student Ministries – open position. No report. Will be a session hire. Bob Williams moved to make this either a full-time or part-time position, to consider both options. Mark Blakley seconded the motion. Motion passed.
4. Director of Children's Ministries - open position. Nicole Moncada is serving as interim director. The Director of Little Lambs ministries is also currently open, being filled by volunteers. Will be session hires.
5. Choir Director. Kelly Hackleman is currently the interim Choir Director. The permanent position will be a session hire. Mark Blakley moved to open the position for interviews, seconded by Tom Crossett. Motion passed. Bob Williams moved to open the position immediately, seconded by Mark Blakley, Motion passed, with Ethan Funk abstaining.



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6. Getting to know Gashland – new member/undershepherd coordination. Mike Brink recommended a process be developed to follow up with new members to get them included in the undershepherding groups. Mike will follow up with Kathy Welch/Office coordinator, to develop this process.
 7. Property team – a recommendation. Property team brought a motion to purchase a new Kubota zero-turn mower, for \$8,449, financed at 0% interest. Motion was approved, subject to obtaining 2 other price quotes and getting funding guidance for monthly payments from Finance team.
 8. Letter from Mike Werkheiser, Chair of Ministerial Committee for the Presbytery of Mid- America. This letter was received, commenting on Pastor Morefield's compensation package. A motion was made by Bob Williams for Mike Brink to moderate, will Pastor Morefield excuse himself. Mark Blakley seconded. Motion passed. Session discussed the letter. No action taken, other than Tom Clapham/secretary will respond, acknowledging the letter from Mark Werkheiser. Bob Williams made a motion to end the discussion and have Pastor Morefield return and resume as moderator. Mark Blakley seconded. Motion passed.
- C. Team Reports: Brief highlight reports were given by the ministry teams.
1. Worship
 2. Outreach
 3. Relationships
 4. Discipleship
 5. Coordinating
- D. Clerk's Report
1. Next Session Meeting: June 13. A joint deacon session meeting will begin and 6 p.m., followed by the regular monthly session meeting.
- E. Consent Reports
1. Deacon's Report: Received.
 2. Financial Report: Received 5/8/2024

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Mark Blakley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Williams. Motion passed. Pastor Morefield closed in prayer at 10:03 p.m.